

# Working for Racial Justice in Contra Costa County

a presentation by:

**The Contra Costa County Racial Justice Coalition**

Organizations and individuals

committed to eliminating racial inequalities

in Contra Costa

<https://cccrjc.wordpress.com/>

# About us

We are a coalition of people who live and work in Contra Costa. We are formerly incarcerated and friends and family of those formerly incarcerated, we are nurses and students, public defenders and community organizers, faith leaders and reentry supporters, to name a few.

# About us

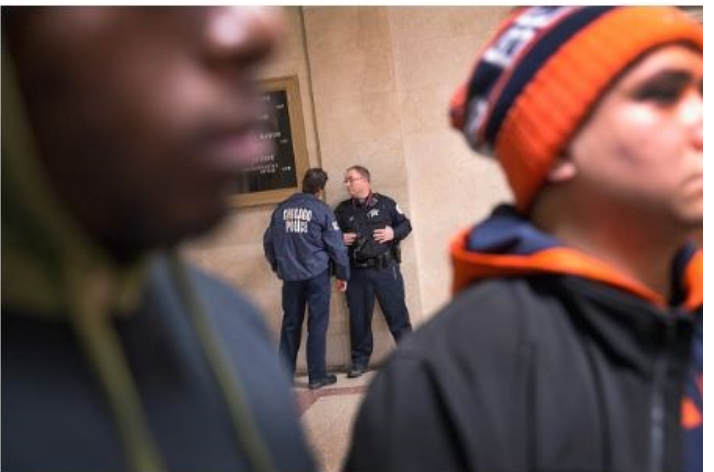
We are committed to eliminating racial inequalities in Contra Costa. We are building a new campaign for specific local changes. We have also successfully organized to create a Racial Justice Taskforce that will identify and implement measures to reduce racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

# About us

We have been working together as the Contra Costa County Racial Justice Coalition since November 2014.

Years of frustration with the status quo combined with gaining momentum for change across the country. We felt the need for a united local voice dedicated specifically to racial justice.





## Our experience

Communities of color are  
over-policed in Costa Costa.

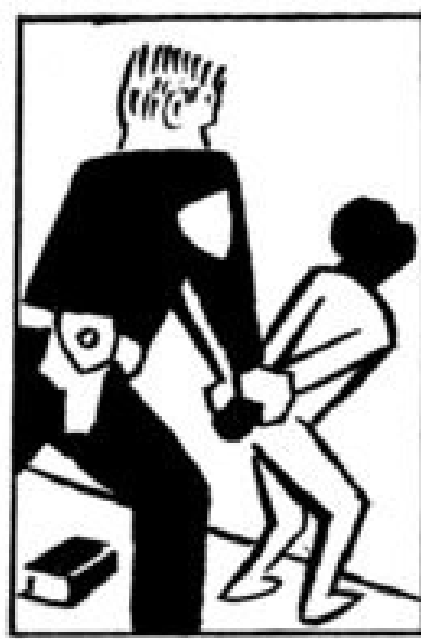
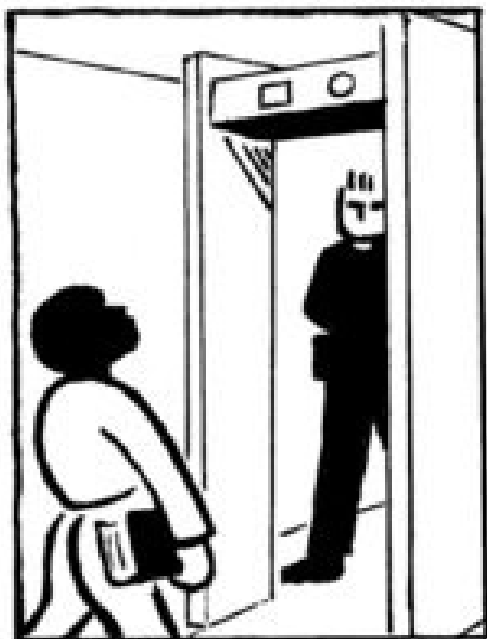




## Our experience

Kids of color are being pushed out of schools and into juvenile detention.





## Our experience

County jails don't look like our community.



## Our experience

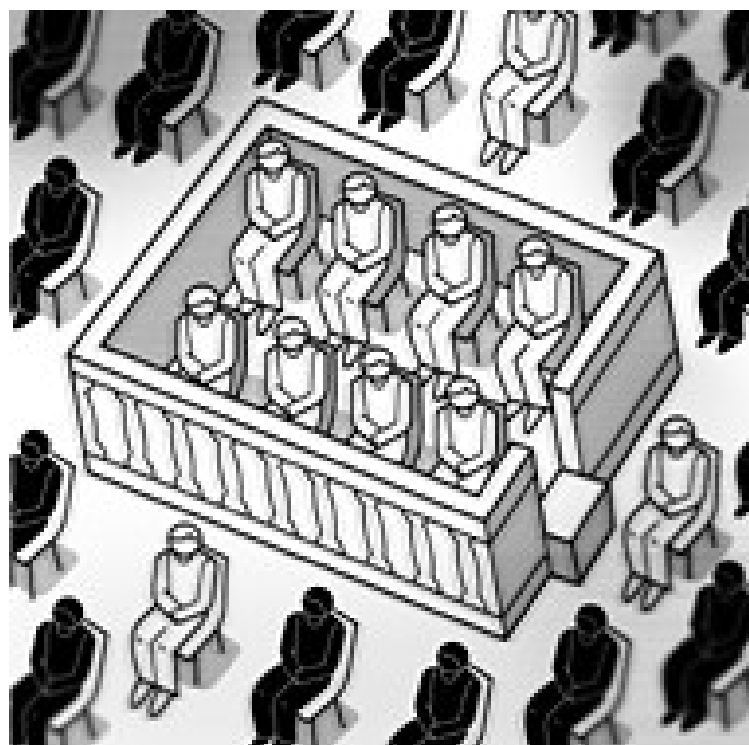
County courtrooms don't look like our community.



Our experience

County juries don't look like  
our community.





NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

only

.....5,576  
 ...4,576

# All-White Jury Uses 21 Minutes To Convict Man

RALEIGH, Miss. (ANP)—Johnny

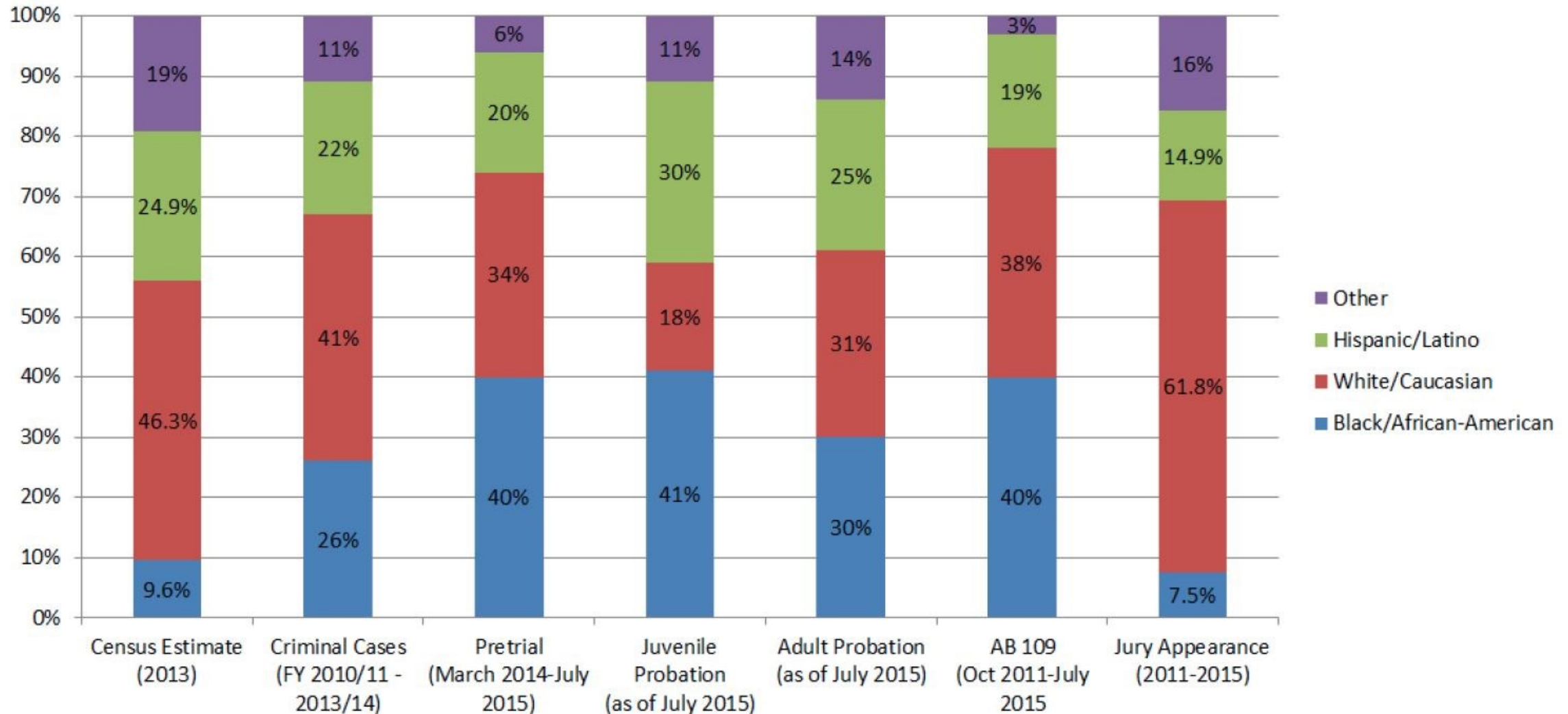
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## What we've been told

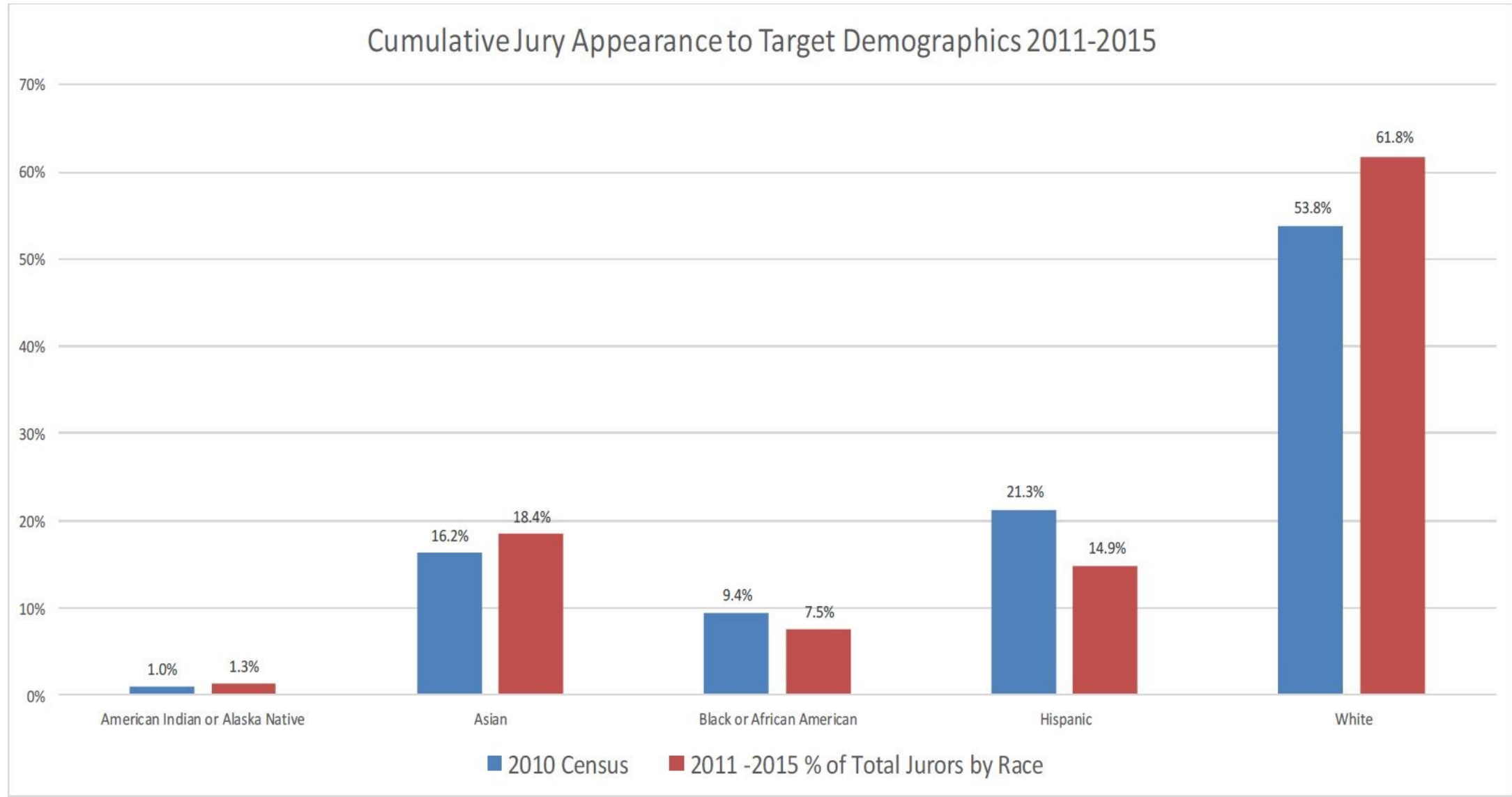
"We train, teach, and practice the notion of colorblind justice, because all lives matter."

- Mark Peterson, District Attorney

# Our Experience Confirmed



# Our Experience Confirmed



# Our Experience Confirmed

The data shows dramatic racial disparities at every stage of the criminal justice process.

# Our Experience Confirmed

- While African-Americans make up 9.6% of the population in Contra Costa per 2013 estimate...
- African-Americans are charged with crimes in 26% of all criminal cases
- **⇒ 2.7x representation**



# Our Experience Confirmed

- While African-Americans make up 9.6% of the population in Contra Costa per 2013 estimate...
- African-American adults make up 30% of probationers
- ⇒ ***3x representation***

# Our Experience Confirmed

- While African-Americans make up 9.6% of the population in Contra Costa per 2013 estimate...
- African-American children make up 41% of probationers
- $\Rightarrow$  ***4x representation***

# Our Experience Confirmed

- While African-Americans make up 9.6% of the population in Contra Costa per 2013 estimate...
- African-Americans make up 7.5% of county jurors
- $\Rightarrow$  ***3/4x representation***

# Our Experience Confirmed

- While Latinos make up 21.3% of the population in Contra Costa per 2013 estimate...
- Latinos make up 14.9% of county jurors
- **⇒ 7/10x *representation***

# Our Experience Confirmed

These disparities are inconsistent with the ideals of our county.

Responsible measures can be taken to reduce the disparities that exist.

# A Call for Justice Reinvestment

In connection with the California Endowment, our coalition is working with criminal justice reform facilitator Jessica Flintoft to analyze Contra Costa County's budget.

In particular, we are looking at Prop 47, AB109, and SB 678 savings and investments.



# A Call for Justice Reinvestment

payment.

## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY QUICK FACT

### SB678 Funding

Contra Costa County has received over \$20.5 million over five years in SB678 funding.

The county was awarded a High Performance Grant for its very low probation failure rates in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.<sup>6</sup>

Table 1: Contra Costa County's SB678 allocations

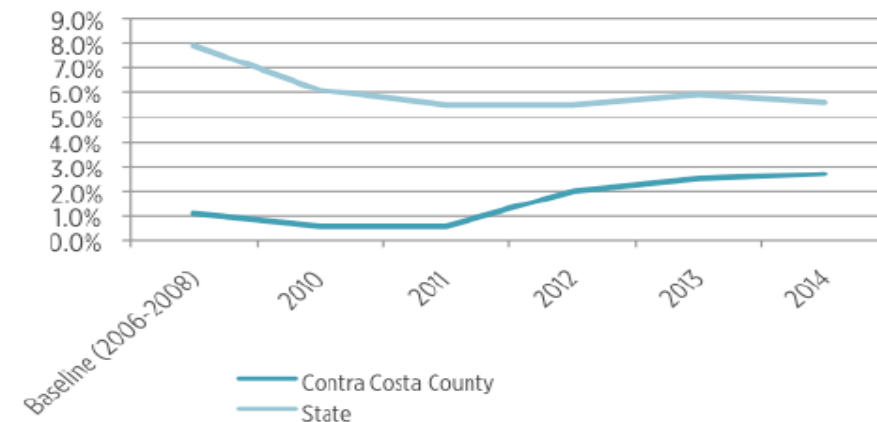
Year formula is based on (Fiscal Year in which funds were provided)	Funding allocation	State prison average daily population avoided <sup>7</sup>
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## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY QUICK FACT

### SB678 and Probation Failure Rates<sup>14</sup>

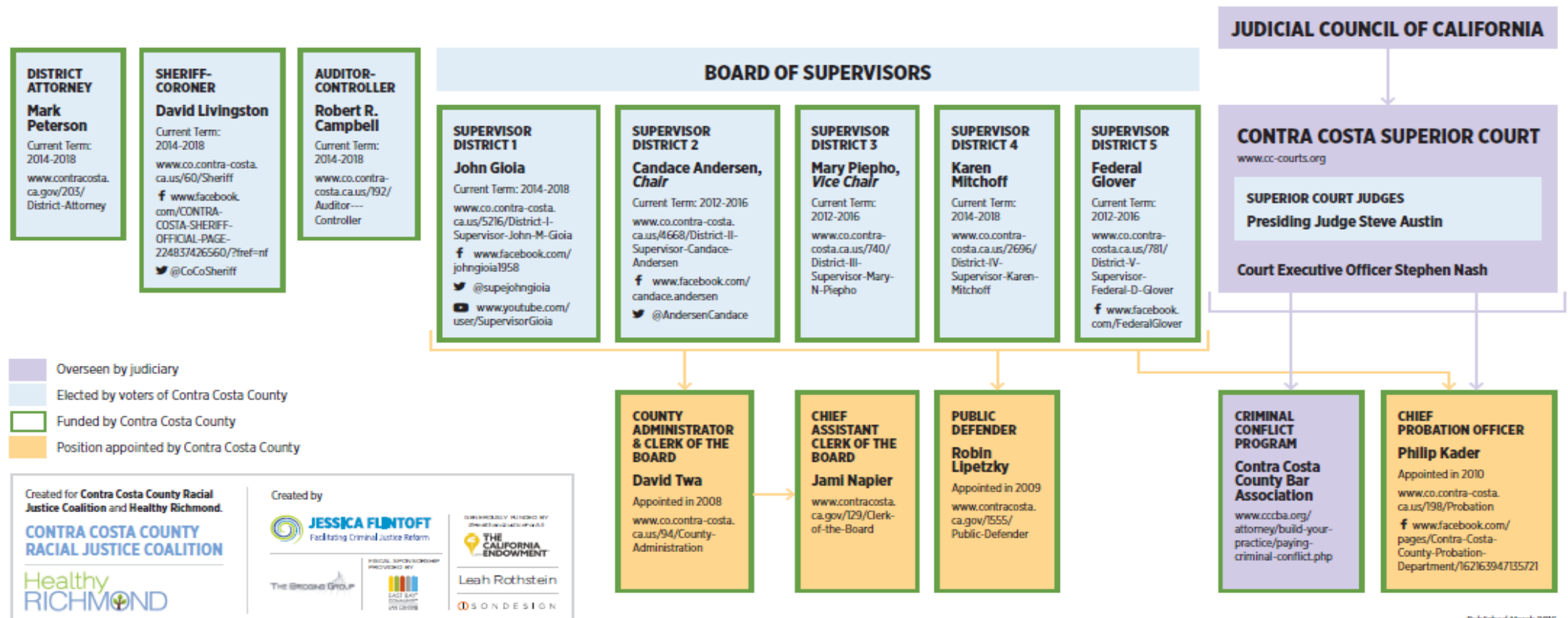
Contra Costa County's probation failure rate has always been well below the State's, with a 2006–2008 baseline rate of 1.1 percent compared to the State's 7.9 percent. Contra Costa's rate then dipped to under 1 percent in 2011 and 2012 and rose steadily to 2.7 percent in 2014, still less than half the Statewide rate of 5.6 percent.

Contra Costa County and Statewide Probation Failure Rates



# A Call for Justice Reinvestment

## Contra Costa County's BUDGET AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP



# A Call for Justice Reinvestment

At regional community summits, we have developed justice reinvestment priorities and a different vision for our community:

- Equal access to housing, health care, education, and other fundamental rights
- Equal treatment under the law
- Systems that protect and defend human dignity

# History

After many meetings between November 2014 and April 2015, we created and launched our first campaign for local changes. That campaign platform is available on our website, and we remain dedicated to its success.

# History

In April 2015, we sent a letter to the CCC Board of Supervisors explaining our campaign. The letter is available on our website.

In July of 2015, the Public Protection Committee (PPC) added our campaign to their meeting agenda. The PPC addresses issues of public protection services.

# History

At the PPC meeting in July, Supervisor John Gioia followed up on our request for data on Contra Costa County's Criminal Justice System. In September 2015, county administration staff presented a report on racial disparities in the criminal justice system. The full report is available on our website and PPC website.



# Racial Justice Taskforce

On December 7, 2015, we sent another letter to the Board of Supervisors. This time, we called for the creation of a Racial Justice Taskforce to address racial disparities in our criminal justice system. The letter is on our website.

# Racial Justice Taskforce

In the Taskforce, traditional justice partners and a diverse array of community stakeholders will join to:

- (1) Research and identify measures that can be taken to reduce the disparities demonstrated by county data;
- (2) Implement measures to reduce disparities; AND
- (3) Analyze new data and report on progress

# Racial Justice Taskforce

In April 2016, the Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to create a 17-member Racial Justice Taskforce\*. The Board also agreed to fund a trained, neutral facilitator and a data analysis partner.

\* “Disproportionate Minority Contact”?

# Moving Forward

The PPC is accepting applications for community positions on the Taskforce.

Encourage qualified applicants to apply, and consider applying yourself if you are committed to meaningful change.

Attend upcoming PPC meetings and contact your supervisor to adopt member guidelines.

# Moving Forward

## **Priorities for Racial Justice in Contra Costa**

Please join us for a community summit at the Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett Ave, Richmond, to address our priorities for racial justice in Contra Costa. This is an opportunity to help us chart the course ahead.

**May 21, 2016 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

# Moving Forward

**There is a place for your voice in our coalition!**

Come to the final summit and to our regular meetings to take part in the process.

Attend our next action and speak out in support of our campaign.

We are a volunteer organization with open meetings and open membership.

**Contact [cccrjinfo@gmail.com](mailto:cccrjinfo@gmail.com) to find out how to get involved.**